

Claims:

1. A method for managing a plurality of network elements, comprising:
 - 3 receiving a plurality of quality of service (QoS) alarms from the plurality of alarms;
 - 4 determining an event flow rate wherein an event flow rate is the rate that a specific type
 - 5 of alarm is received;
 - 6 determining which of the plurality of network elements is generating the greatest
 - 7 number alarms; and
 - 8 instructing the network element generating the greatest number of alarms to stop
 - 9 sending the alarms.

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01 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the network element does not transmit the
02 specified types of alarms for a period of 600 seconds.

01 3. The method of claim 1 wherein only a specific threshold alarm not transmitted
02 for the period.

1 4. The method of claim 1 where a type of alarm is not transmitted for the period.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the type is the threshold types of alarms.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the type is the QoS types of alarms.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein a network element that has been suspended from transmitting alarms is allowed to start re-transmitting the suspended type of alarm if the event flow has dropped below a lower threshold value.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the lower threshold value is equal to 3.

9. An element management system, comprising:

- a processor;
- a store for storing computer instructions that define operational logic of the element management system, the computer instructions for prompting the element management system to issue a signal to a network element to cause it to stop sending QoS signals.

10. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending only a specific type of threshold crossing alarm.

11. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending all threshold crossing alerts.

12. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending all QoS alarms.

1 13. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a plurality of signals to the network element to instruct it to stop
3 sending alarms, wherein the instructions to stop transmitting are, in the following order:

4 specified types of threshold alarms;

5 all threshold alarms;

6 all QoS alarms; and

7 all alarms.

1 14. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a plurality of signals to the network element to instruct it to stop
3 sending alarms, wherein instructions prompt the element management system to instruct a
4 second network element to stop sending threshold crossing alerts prior to sending an instruction
5 to stop transmitting all QoS alarms.